THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Government had in October, 2004 sold 5.25% of the fully diluted post-issue equity capital of National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) through an 'Offer for Sale' along with a fresh issue of the same quantity by the company.

(b) Under this Initial Public Offering, NTPC got listed on the stock exchanges.

(c) NTPC has been consistently performing well. The net profit after tax of the company was Rs. 5807 crore in 2004-05 and Rs. 5820 crore in 2005-06.

NPAs in Agriculture and Industrial Sectors

2325. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) declared so far by the Nationalised Banks of the country;

(b) the classification of sectors where loan-amounts were meant to be invested;

(c) the percentage of NPAs connected with agriculture and industrial sectors; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take in prioritizing the sectors in lending money to minimize the amount of NPAs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As on 31.03.2006, gross and net non-performing assets (NPAs) of nationalised banks were Rs. 27,702 crore and Rs. 7,929 crore, respectively.

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has stipulated a target of 40% of Net Bank Credit (NBC) for lending to the priority sector by domestic scheduled commercial banks both in the public and private banks. Within this, sub-targets of 18% and 10% of NBC have been stipulated for lending to agriculture and weaker sections, respectively.

(c) As on 31.03.2006, gross NPAs of public sector banks in agriculture sector was Rs. 6202.92 crore, which constituted 4% of total outstanding

advances in agriculture sector. As regards NPAs pertaining to industrial sector, existing management system of RBI does not generate data in the desired manner.

(d) The Boards of the banks are empowered to decide financing to various sectors in accordance with their loan policies and after considering the guidelines issued by RBI from time to time.

Pension Scheme for Government Employees

2326. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rules governing pension scheme for Government employees has been revised some time ago;

(b) if so, the salient details of distinction between the revised and the pre-revision employees' pension schemes indicating numbers of surviving pensioners, personnel covered by original scheme and those covered by revised scheme as on December 31st, 2006;

(c) the salient details of recommendations made by Geetha Krishnan Committee in 2002 regarding pension; and

(d) the extent to which the recommendations have been accepted for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) In December, 2003, the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 were amended to restrict their applicability to Government servants appointed on or before 31st December, 2003. A new restructured defined contribution pension system, namely, the New Pension System (NPS) was introduced with effect from 01.01.2004, for new recruits to Central Government Services (except the armed forces in the first stage).

(b) The major difference between the pension scheme governed under the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 and the NPS is that the former is a defined benefit scheme based on the principle of 'Pay As You Go' and the latter is based on defined contributions. Under the NPS, the monthly contribution by the employee is 10% of the salary+DA+DP which is matched by Central Government.